

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9419

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AF

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON ARIANA DC-10 PURCHASE

REF: STATE 191589

1. THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REFTEL CONSTITUTED EXTEMPORANEOUS AND UNRECORDED REMARKS ON JULY 15 FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF A LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN ARIANA AND MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS TO PURCHASE A DC-10 AIRCRAFT. THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS FOLLOWED A LENGTHY STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE PAKTIAWAL, WHO STRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD EXTEND SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE:

-- THE AMBASSADOR NOTED HE HAD BEEN WARMLY AND CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, TARAKI, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

-- ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WANTED TO WORK FOR GOOD, FRIENDLY, AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

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(DRA) ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

-- IT WAS FELT THAT THE U.S. COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEGISLATIVE MANDATE ON AID DIRECTED THAT ASSISTANCE BE PROVIDED TO THE NEEDIEST OF THE COUNTRY IN AREAS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND

EDUCATION. THESE OBJECTIVES APPEAR TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

-- IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE U.S., IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO GO BEYOND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS AND TO INTERACT ON VARIOUS OTHER LEVELS, INCLUDING THE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL.

-- ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEVELS IS THE COMMERCIAL LEVEL BECAUSE IT IS U.S. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE THAT CAN OFTEN BE MOST INSTRUMENTAL IN PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING THAT HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON A COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THEREFORE WELCOMED THE DECISION OF THE DRA TO MAINTAIN THE ARIANA-PAN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP, AND TO OPT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS DC-10.

-- SUCH RELATIONSHIPS ARE A BENEFIT TO BOTH PARTIES.

-- NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SALE OF THE DC-10 HAD BEEN UNDER WAY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND IT WAS THEREFORE WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE LEARNED OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT TO PURCHASE A DC-10, WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE THE FIRST OF A NUMBER.

-- CONGRATULATIONS WERE EXTENDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR BRINGING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE DC-10 PURCHASE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

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